

need hardly say that he alluded to Burgh Castle and to Caister Castle. In regard to the church at Burgh, an interesting fresco was found a few years since, representing St. Christopher. In the church at Belton an interesting fresco had also been found. Those who went to Belton would find it worth their while to take Gorleston Church in their way there,—they would see the arch of the holy sepulchre. On the north side of the altar they would find a cross, which had been uncovered not long ago. The fresco on the font exhibited an individuality which he had not seen any where else.

Mr. Britton then addressed the meeting and said, with Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, Lincolnshire, and all the eastern coast, he was comparatively little acquainted. He had travelled much over them; but such was the march of intellect, and the march of steam, that what had been done forty years since, became now an object of antiquity. A new era had commenced within the last twenty years, and this was an extraordinary epoch in the history of our country, and particularly in the history of archaeology, because so many young antiquaries had started into existence, in full-blown intelligence and activity, and full of artistic feeling, and all must be surprised at the quantity of information now given. They found in almost every provincial town a great number, not only of professional artists, but also amateurs, and they had an opportunity of knowing much more than they could formerly. He congratulated the public on the establishment of an archaeological society in this peculiar county. He called it peculiar, because, from the time he had become acquainted with Norfolk, he had seen more of antiquarian research among the inhabitants, the clergy, and the middle classes of the county, than in any county of England. He said this advisedly. When he came to this county fifty years since, there was a knot of artists in Norwich—Cotman and others—who gave a taste for the subject, under the direction, advice, and excitement of his friend Mr. Turner. These were things which those present were not very well aware of, and therefore he called attention to them. This county abounded in antiquities of various classes and degrees of interest. There were remains of the Roman, Saxon, and Norman times. There were parochial churches of a curious character. The round tower distinguished this county, but not entirely; and the churches formed a series of the most interesting remains that he knew of in England.

The Rev. R. Hart read a paper on the mural paintings of the church at Belton; Mr. F. Worship read a paper respecting the houses in the roof of Yarmouth Church; and the Rev. J. Gunn delivered a discourse, of some length, on the history and architecture of Yarmouth Church, illustrated by numerous drawings.

Excursions were made; and a public dinner in the Town Hall, the Bishop of Norwich in the chair, closed the day.

THE CHURCH AND PHAROS ON DOVER HEIGHTS.

FREEMANSON OF THE CHURCH.

At a meeting of this society on September 12, Mr. French in the chair, Mr. J. W. Archer exhibited a mural brass to the memory of Sir John Mordaunt, of Walton, Bart., executed by the exhibitor, and intended to be placed in an aisle erected in Wellesbourne Church, near Stratford-on-Avon. The wall intended to receive the above, is composed of tiles of the Reading pattern, with borders encompassing the stone containing the brass. The brass is inlaid in the dove coloured stone of the district. A label containing a passage from the Psalms, supports the shields, containing arms pendant. The base containing the legend, in raised characters, the initial letters and numerals being coloured, supports a recumbent effigy of Sir John Mordaunt, the head resting upon a cushion, diapered in blue and scarlet, this being supported by the coil of the mat on which the figure rests. At the head of the effigy is the figure of an angel bearing a model of the chapel at Walton, founded by the deceased.

Mr. Archer afterwards read a paper on an ancient brass, of which he exhibited a rubbing,

now in the tower of old Hackney Church: this paper we shall give at length.

Mr. Stothard then read the following paper on the church and Roman pharos at Dover, near the castle, illustrated by various sketches.

Hasted, in his "History of Kent," says, "that tradition supposes that Dover Castle was built by Julius Caesar." Be that as it may, which is very doubtful, one thing is certain, viz., that the Romans, on their first landing, about the forty-fourth year of the Christian era, did erect certain watch towers on the heights of Dover. Varied are the opinions as to the exact site of one of these, but of the Pharos there can, I think, be no doubt whatever; and that it is more than probable that they did so immediately after their first landing, and that it was, as is stated, intended for a speculum or watch tower, and also as a lighthouse, like one erected by them about the same time at Boulogne. The latter was destroyed in the sixth century, while that on our coast stands as an interesting memorial of the first landing of that great people on our own shores. As regards another tower on Dover Heights, near to the pharos, many historians have supposed that the square tower in the centre of the ruins of the Norman church, standing within four feet of the pharos, must be it, because, as they say, there are on each of the four sides circular holes. This hypothesis I am rather inclined to admit in the absence of some better, because I find peculiar marks about that tower which would lead me to believe that it once stood independent of the church, and that for this reason, there does appear on the west side of that tower a window, above which, by some feet, is seen the marks of the apex of the roof of the church, which would appear to have become an adjunct to the tower erected at a more recent period than the tower itself. In the church, like many others where Roman remains were, the materials of the Roman work found a place in the Norman buildings.

This church, it has been supposed by some, was erected about the year 161, by Lucius, King of Britain. This has been doubted, not the period, but as regarded the founder. Be that as it may, Saint Augustine appears, by the request of Ethelbert, to have reconsecrated it about 597, in honour of the blessed Virgin Mary. His son Eadbold, who succeeded him as King of Kent, did, at the latter part of his reign, renounce Paganism, and founded a college of secular canons, and a provost in this church, apartments being provided for them in the precincts of the castle; but it was but for a short period, viz., till about 691, when they were removed by Wedred, King of Kent, to St. Martin's, Dover, they being too great an encumbrance within a fortification. Hasted states again, that it was probable that this same king pulled down the college, reserving only the church for the garrison, and which appears by wills of later times from the Prerogative Office of Canterbury: it was esteemed to be a parochial church, having a district of the castle as a parish annexed to it by the name of "The parish of the Blessed Mary within the Castle of Dover;" for one John Fardrade, in his will, proved 1501, describes himself of the parish of the Blessed Mary in the Castle of Dover; and again Giles Love, of Dover, gent., by his will, proved in 1519, gave to the high altar of the church of Our Lady, in the Castle of Dover, for his tithes forgotten, the sum of 3s. 4d. It continued a church, with its chaplains, diminishing from three to one, until the end of the reign of King James the First, and then it came into disuse; but it is said that a chaplain still exists and receives the salary. There were many monuments erected therein to the memory of the officers of the Castle, one as early as the year 1384; but all have disappeared, and the names of those only on record by the historian. I took the outward dimensions of this church and the outward dimensions of the pharos. The length of church from east to west is 125 feet; width of nave, 35 feet; extreme width, 75 feet; diameter of pharos, 35 feet.

As to the pharos, its form is octagonal within, and, as I am informed, it is square within; the sides of the square and octagon being equal, about 14 feet, giving 10 feet for the thickness of the walls. Upon four sides of the upper part are single windows, said to be 6 feet high; and the door at the east side is about

6 feet wide and 12 feet high, or was so before the accumulation of the soil or debris; but the round head of the door is now about 3 feet from the ground. The walls of the pharos are composed of alternate layers of Roman tiles and that which is called stalactites. The extreme height of this Roman remain is about 40 feet,—how high it did extend it is vain to form a conjecture. Some persons have been ingenious enough to trace eight windows, or stories: such a supposition I have not had ocular demonstration of, and would not venture an opinion corroborative thereof; but that it has been covered with a facing of stone at some much more recent period than that of its erection there are ample proofs, on the north side, where the casing in part remains, as also the more modern windows and battlements; but that exposed to the sea is divested entirely of the coating said to have been put on by Sir Thomas Erpingham, whose arms, fortunately for such memorials stands on the north side, otherwise that also would have perished.

Mr. W. P. Griffith suggested that the so-called Roman Pharos at Dover, which is placed close to the east end of the church, and is an octagon, might be a baptistery. Wallen, in his "History of Little Maplestead Church" (speaking of baptisteries), had remarked, "As the first Christians always practised baptism by immersion, and wherever they formed a nucleus wanted a building for this purpose as much as for that of worship, Constantine no sooner gave his basilica of the Lateran to Pope Sylvester than he erected behind it a baptistery, to which he gave the octagonal shape."

For the sake of the society we regret to hear that Mr. Griffith has resigned the office of honorary secretary, which he has held for several years past. The society meeting once a fortnight during the whole year, the labour of the office must have been very considerable: the able manner in which Mr. Griffith has discharged it, has made the society greatly his debtor.

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSES AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.

THE courses on engineering and architecture pursued at University College will be resumed on the 24th inst., under Professor Donaldson. The professor remarks, in a letter on the subject, that "Professional education has of late made a great advance. Chance has less influence than it once possessed in producing the results required by public intelligence. Those entering on the field of enterprise have sought to qualify themselves for the struggle, resulting from the contest of active and well-informed minds. It is the aim of University College to offer the opportunity to young men of perfecting the instruction to be gained in the office of the architect, or in the counting-house of the builder. They may acquire in the class-room by study, observation, and experiment, a methodical system of investigation, a course of progressive development, an acquaintance with first principles, and a knowledge of the history of art and science and of the great men who have distinguished themselves. These, it is to be hoped, are calculated to infuse a habit of thought and spirit of self-improvement, which must act beneficially upon the student's future career."

THE IRON TRADE OF SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE.—BIRMINGHAM, FRIDAY.—The ironmasters of these districts held their usual preliminary meeting at the hotel, Dudley, yesterday. The attendance was numerous. After a long discussion, it was resolved not to make any advance upon the prices of iron fixed at the last quarter-day. Orders are represented to be plentiful, and contracts which for some months have been suspended are now in course of execution.

NEWSPAPERS AT THE LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.—The privilege of selling newspapers, &c., at the several stations on this line of railway has been let by tender to Messrs. Smith and Son, news agents, 192, Strand, for the sum of 1,500*l.* a-year. The person who has hitherto supplied Euston station offered the Company the enormous sum of 610*l.* for a stand at that station alone.